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## A NOTE ON COVERS OF FIBRED HYPERBOLIC MANIFOLDS

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**Abstract:** For each surface  $S$  of genus  $g > 2$  we construct pairs of conjugate pseudo-Anosov maps,  $\varphi_1$  and  $\varphi_2$ , and two non-equivalent covers  $p_i: \tilde{S} \rightarrow S$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ , so that the lift of  $\varphi_1$  to  $\tilde{S}$  with respect to  $p_1$  coincides with one of  $\varphi_2$  with respect to  $p_2$ .

The mapping tori of the  $\varphi_i$  and their lift provide examples of pairs of hyperbolic 3-manifolds so that the first is covered by the second in two different ways.

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**Key words:** Regular covers, mapping tori, (pseudo-)Anosov diffeomorphisms.

### 1. Introduction

Given a finite group  $G$  acting freely on a closed orientable surface  $\tilde{S}$  of genus larger than 2 one considers the space  $X$  of the orbits for the  $G$ -action on  $\tilde{S}$ . The projection  $\tilde{S} \rightarrow X$  is a regular cover and  $X$  is again a surface, of genus  $g \geq 2$ , whose topology is totally determined by the order of  $G$ . Assume now that  $G$  contains two normal subgroups,  $H_1$  and  $H_2$ , non isomorphic but with the same indices in  $G$ . In this situation one can construct the following commutative diagram of regular coverings:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \tilde{S} & \\
 \swarrow & & \searrow \\
 S_1 = \tilde{S}/H_1 & & S_2 = \tilde{S}/H_2 \\
 \searrow & & \swarrow \\
 & X = \tilde{S}/G &
 \end{array}$$

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We are interested in the following:

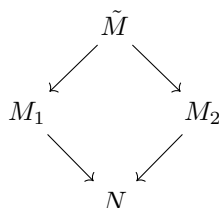
**Question.** *Is there a pseudo-Anosov diffeomorphism  $\varphi$  of  $X$  which lifts to pseudo-Anosov diffeomorphisms  $\varphi_1$ ,  $\varphi_2$ , and  $\tilde{\varphi}$  of  $S_1$ ,  $S_2$ , and  $\tilde{S}$  respectively such that there is a diffeomorphism  $g: S_1 \rightarrow S_2$  conjugating  $\varphi_1$  to  $\varphi_2$ , i.e.  $\varphi_2 = g \circ \varphi_1 \circ g^{-1}$ ?*

The aim of the present note is to provide explicit constructions of surface coverings and pseudo-Anosov diffeomorphisms satisfying the above properties. This will be carried out in the next sections. More explicitly, we prove:

**Theorem 1.** *For each closed oriented surface  $S$  of genus greater than 2, there exists an infinite family of pairs  $(\varphi_1, \varphi_2: S \rightarrow S)$  of conjugate pseudo-Anosov maps and two non-equivalent coverings  $p_i: \tilde{S} \rightarrow S$  such that a lift of  $\varphi_1$  with respect to  $p_1$  and a lift of  $\varphi_2$  with respect to  $p_2$  are the same map  $\tilde{\varphi}: \tilde{S} \rightarrow \tilde{S}$ .*

Here, the expression *infinitely many pairs of diffeomorphisms* means that there is an infinite family of pairs so that if  $\varphi_i$  and  $\varphi'_j$  belong to different pairs then no power of  $\varphi_i$  is a power of  $\varphi'_j$ , for  $i, j = 1, 2$ , up to conjugacy. The maps in Theorem 1 come from lifting Anosov diffeomorphisms on a torus to its branched covers.

A positive answer to our initial question implies the existence of hyperbolic 3-manifolds with interesting properties. By considering the mapping tori of the four diffeomorphisms  $\varphi$ ,  $\varphi_1$ ,  $\varphi_2$ , and  $\tilde{\varphi}$ , one gets four hyperbolic 3-manifolds  $N$ ,  $M_1$ ,  $M_2$ , and  $\tilde{M}$  respectively. The covers of the surfaces  $\tilde{S}$ ,  $\tilde{S}_1$ ,  $\tilde{S}_2$ , and  $X$  induce covers of these manifolds:



Since  $\varphi_1$  and  $\varphi_2$  are conjugate, we see that  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are homeomorphic (and hence isometric by Mostow's rigidity theorem [Mo]). It follows that  $\tilde{M}$  is a regular cover of a manifold  $M \cong M_1 \cong M_2$  in two different ways.

**Corollary 2.** *There exists an infinite family of pairs of hyperbolic 3-manifolds  $(\tilde{M}, M)$ , such that there exist two non-equivalent regular covers  $p_1, p_2: \tilde{M} \rightarrow M$  with non isomorphic covering groups. Moreover, for each  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , there is a 3-manifold  $\tilde{M}$ , which belongs to at least  $k$  distinct such pairs  $(\tilde{M}, M_\ell)$ ,  $1 \leq \ell \leq k$ .*

The existence of hyperbolic 3-manifolds with this type of behaviour was already remarked in [RS] but our examples show that one can moreover ask for the manifolds to fibre over the circle and for the two group actions to preserve a fixed fibration (see also Section 3 for other comments on the two types of examples).

## 2. Main construction

In this section we answer in the positive a weaker version of our original question, where the diffeomorphisms involved are not required to be pseudo-Anosov.

**2.1. Symmetric surfaces.** For every pair of integers  $n, m \geq 1$  we will construct a closed connected orientable surface of genus  $nm+1$  admitting a symmetry of type  $G = \mathbb{Z}/n \times \mathbb{Z}/m$ .

Let  $n$  and  $m$  be fixed. Consider the torus  $T = \mathbb{R}^2/\mathbb{Z}^2$  and the following  $G$ -action: the generator of  $\mathbb{Z}/n$  is  $(x, y) \mapsto (x + 1/n, y)$  and that of  $\mathbb{Z}/m$  is  $(x, y) \mapsto (x, y + 1/m)$ , where all coordinates are thought mod 1.

The union of the sets of lines  $L_x = \{(i/n, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid i \in \mathbb{Z}, y \in \mathbb{R}\}$  and  $L_y = \{(x, j/m) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid j \in \mathbb{Z}, x \in \mathbb{R}\}$  maps to a  $G$ -equivariant family  $\mathcal{L}$  of simple closed curves of  $T$ :  $n$  meridians and  $m$  longitudes, as in Figure 1.

Consider a standard embedding of  $T$  in the 3-sphere  $\mathbf{S}^3 \subset \mathbb{C}^2$  so that the  $G$  action on the torus is realised by the  $(\mathbb{Z}/n \times \mathbb{Z}/m)$ -action on  $\mathbf{S}^3$  defined as  $(z_1, z_2) \mapsto (e^{2i\pi/n} z_1, z_2)$  and  $(z_1, z_2) \mapsto (z_1, e^{2i\pi/m} z_2)$ . A small  $G$ -invariant regular neighbourhood of  $\mathcal{L}$  in  $\mathbf{S}^3$  is a handlebody  $\mathcal{H}$  of genus  $nm + 1$ . Its boundary is the desired surface  $\tilde{S}$ .

## 2.2. The normal subgroups $H_1$ and $H_2$ .

**Notation 1.** Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

- We denote by  $\Pi(n)$  the set of all prime numbers that divide  $n$ .
- For any  $P \subset \Pi(n)$  we denote by  $n_P \in \mathbb{N}$  the divisor of  $n$  such that  $\Pi(n_P) = P$  and  $\Pi(n/n_P) = \Pi(n) \setminus P$ .

**Definition 1.** Let  $A$  and  $B$  be two finite sets of prime numbers such that

- $A \cap B = \emptyset$ ;
- $A \cup B \neq \emptyset$ .

Let  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $n, m \geq 2$ . We say that  $(n, m)$  is *admissible with respect to*  $(A, B)$  if the following conditions are verified:

- $A \cup B \subset \Pi(n) \cap \Pi(m)$ ;
- $\frac{n_A m_B}{m_A n_B}$  is an integer strictly greater than 1, that is  $m_A$  divides  $n_A$ ,  $n_B$  divides  $m_B$ , and at least one of the divisors is proper.

In this case we let  $C = \Pi(n) \setminus (A \cup B)$  and  $D = \Pi(m) \setminus (A \cup B)$ .

We note that, since  $\frac{n_A m_B}{m_A n_B}$  is an integer greater than one, then  $m_A m_B = m_{A \cup B} \neq n_{A \cup B} = n_A n_B$ . This definition of admissibility will be used to guarantee, in the proof of Lemma 3, that there is a prime  $p \in A \cup B$  such that the Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $H_1$  is cyclic but not that of  $H_2$ .

*Remark 1.* If  $\gcd(n, m) = d > 1$  and at least one between  $\gcd(d, n/d)$  and  $\gcd(d, m/d)$  is not 1, then there is a choice of sets  $A, B$  such that  $(n, m)$  is admissible with respect to  $(A, B)$ . Note that this choice may not be unique. In fact, for each  $k \in \mathbb{N}^*$  there is a pair  $(n, m)$  such that one has at least  $k$  choices of sets  $(A, B)$  for which  $(n, m)$  is admissible. Let  $p_1, \dots, p_k$  be  $k$  distinct prime numbers and consider  $n = p_1^2 \dots p_k^2$  and  $m = p_1 \dots p_k$  so that  $n = m^2$ . For each  $1 \leq \ell \leq k$  let  $A_\ell = \{p_\ell\}$  and  $B_\ell = \emptyset$ , then for each  $\ell$  the pair  $(n, m)$  is admissible with respect to  $(A_\ell, B_\ell)$ .

We consider the  $G = \mathbb{Z}/n \times \mathbb{Z}/m$ -actions on the torus, where  $(n, m)$  is admissible with respect to some choice of  $(A, B)$  as in Definition 1. Of course we have  $\mathbb{Z}/n \cong \mathbb{Z}/n_A \times \mathbb{Z}/n_B \times \mathbb{Z}/n_C$  and  $\mathbb{Z}/m \cong \mathbb{Z}/m_A \times \mathbb{Z}/m_B \times \mathbb{Z}/m_D$ .

The two subgroups of  $G$  we shall consider are:

$$H_1 = (\mathbb{Z}/n_A \times \mathbb{Z}/n_C) \times (\mathbb{Z}/m_B \times \mathbb{Z}/m_D)$$

and

$$H_2 = (\mathbb{Z}/(n_A/m_A) \times \mathbb{Z}/n_B \times \mathbb{Z}/n_C) \times (\mathbb{Z}/m_A \times \mathbb{Z}/(m_B/n_B) \times \mathbb{Z}/m_D)$$

which are obviously normal (since  $G$  is abelian) and of the same order:

$$nm/(n_B m_A) = n_A m_B n_C m_D \geq n_A m_B > 1,$$

since the pair  $(n, m)$  is admissible with respect to  $(A, B)$ . Clearly the two subgroups  $H_1$  and  $H_2$  depend on the choice of  $(A, B)$ .

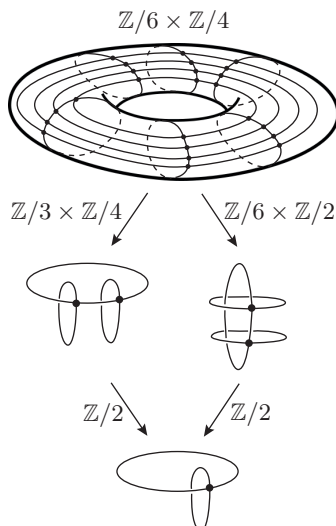


FIGURE 1. The set  $\mathcal{L}$  of simple closed curves of  $T$ , with 6 meridians and 4 longitudes, and the action of two subgroups  $H_1 = \mathbb{Z}/3 \times \mathbb{Z}/4$  and  $H_2 = \mathbb{Z}/6 \times \mathbb{Z}/2$  of  $G = \mathbb{Z}/6 \times \mathbb{Z}/4$ . In this case,  $A = \emptyset$ ,  $B = \{2\}$ .

**Lemma 3.** *The two subgroups  $H_1$  and  $H_2$  are not isomorphic but their quotients  $G/H_1$  and  $G/H_2$  are.*

*Proof:* Since, according to Definition 1,  $n_A/m_A$  and  $m_B/n_B$  cannot be both equal to 1, there is a prime  $p \in A \cup B$  such that the Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $H_1$  is cyclic but not that of  $H_2$ . Finally, we observe that  $G/H_1 \cong \mathbb{Z}/n_B \times \mathbb{Z}/m_A \cong \mathbb{Z}/m_A \times \mathbb{Z}/n_B \cong G/H_2$ , that is, both quotients are cyclic of order  $n_B m_A$ , since  $A \cap B = \emptyset$ .  $\square$

**2.3. Lifting diffeomorphisms on the different covers.** An easy Euler characteristic check shows that  $X = \tilde{S}/G$  is a surface of genus 2 bounding a handlebody  $\mathcal{H}_X = \tilde{\mathcal{H}}/G$ . Similarly, one can verify that  $\mathcal{H}_i = \tilde{\mathcal{H}}/H_i$  is a handlebody of genus  $n_B m_A + 1$ .

We analyse now how the regular coverings  $S_i \rightarrow X$  are built. Consider the following composition of group morphisms

$$\pi_1(X) \longrightarrow \pi_1(\mathcal{H}_X) \longrightarrow H_1(\mathcal{H}_X) \cong \mathbb{Z}^2,$$

where the first map is induced by the inclusion of  $X$  as the boundary of  $\mathcal{H}_X$ . Note that  $\pi_1(\mathcal{H}_X)$  is a free group of rank 2 generated by the images  $\mu$  and  $\lambda$  of a meridian and a longitude of the original torus  $T$ . Of course, these two curves can be pushed onto the boundary  $X$  of  $\mathcal{H}_X$ . We

can also assume that they have the same basepoint  $x_0 \in X$ . Let us denote by  $[\mu]$  and  $[\lambda]$  the classes of  $\mu$  and  $\lambda$  respectively in  $H_1(\mathcal{H}_X)$ . There are two natural morphisms from  $H_1(\mathcal{H}_X) \cong \mathbb{Z}^2$  to  $\mathbb{Z}/n_B m_A \cong \mathbb{Z}/m_A \times \mathbb{Z}/n_B$ : the first one maps  $[\mu]$  to a generator of  $\mathbb{Z}/m_A$  and  $[\lambda]$  to a generator of  $\mathbb{Z}/n_B$  while the second one exchanges the roles of the two elements and maps  $[\mu]$  to a generator of  $\mathbb{Z}/n_B$  and  $[\lambda]$  to a generator of  $\mathbb{Z}/m_A$ .

The two coverings  $S_i \rightarrow X$  are determined by the composition of these two group morphisms:

$$\pi_1(X) \rightarrow \pi_1(\mathcal{H}_X) \rightarrow H_1(\mathcal{H}_X) \cong \mathbb{Z}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/n_B m_A \cong \mathbb{Z}/m_A \times \mathbb{Z}/n_B$$

that is, the fundamental groups  $\pi_1(S_i)$  correspond to the kernels of the two morphisms just constructed.

**Lemma 4.** *The two coverings  $S_i \rightarrow X$ ,  $i = 1, 2$  are conjugate. More precisely there is a diffeomorphism  $\tau$  of order 2 of  $X$ , inducing a well-defined element  $\tau_* \in \text{Aut}(\pi_1(X, x_0))$  such that  $\tau_*$  exchanges  $\pi_1(S_1)$  and  $\pi_1(S_2)$ .*

*Proof:* The diffeomorphism  $\tau$  is the involution with two fixed points,  $x_0$  and  $y_0$  pictured in Figure 2. Note that  $\tau$  exchanges  $\mu$  and  $\lambda$ . The fact that  $\tau_*$  defines an element of  $\text{Aut}(\pi_1(X, x_0))$  (and not just  $\text{Out}(\pi_1(X, x_0))$ ) follows from the fact that  $\tau(x_0) = x_0$ .  $\square$

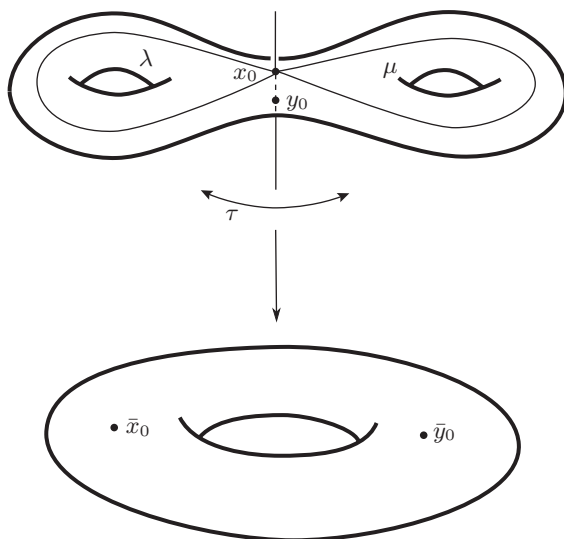


FIGURE 2. The action of  $\tau$  on  $X$  and the quotient  $X/\tau$ .

We are interested in diffeomorphisms  $f$  of  $X$  which commute with  $\tau$  and fix both  $x_0$  and  $y_0$ . We have the following easy fact.

**Lemma 5.** *A diffeomorphism  $f$  of  $X$  commutes with  $\tau$  and fixes both  $x_0$  and  $y_0$  if and only if it is the lift of a diffeomorphism of the torus fixing two points  $\bar{x}_0$  and  $\bar{y}_0$ .*

*Proof:* Observe that the orbifold quotient  $X/\tau$  is a torus with two cone points of order 2. Clearly, any diffeomorphism  $f$  that commutes with  $\tau$  and fixes  $x_0$  and  $y_0$  induces a map of  $X/\tau$  which fixes the two cone points. Vice-versa, given a diffeomorphism of the torus which fixes two points  $\bar{x}_0$  and  $\bar{y}_0$  we can lift it to  $X$  once we choose an identification of the torus with  $X/\tau$  such that  $\bar{x}_0$  and  $\bar{y}_0$  are mapped to the two cone points.  $\square$

We are interested in diffeomorphisms of  $X$  which commute with  $\tau$  and lift to the covers  $S_i \rightarrow X$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ , and  $\tilde{S} \rightarrow X$ .

**Lemma 6.** *Let  $f$  be a diffeomorphism of  $X$  which commutes with  $\tau$  and fixes  $x_0$  and  $y_0$ . One can choose  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $f^k$  lifts to diffeomorphisms of  $S_1$ ,  $S_2$ , and  $\tilde{S}$  which fix pointwise the fibres of  $x_0$ .*

*Proof:* The diffeomorphism  $f$  fixes  $x_0$  and so induces an automorphism  $f_*$  of  $\pi_1(X, x_0)$ . Choose  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$ , and  $\tilde{x}$  points of  $S_1$ ,  $S_2$ , and  $\tilde{S}$  respectively which map to  $x_0$ . Since  $\pi_1(X, x_0)$  is finitely generated, there is a finite number of subgroups of  $\pi_1(X, x_0)$  with a given finite index. Since  $\pi_1(S_1, x_1)$ ,  $\pi_1(S_2, x_2)$ , and  $\pi_1(\tilde{S}, \tilde{x})$  have finite index in  $\pi_1(X, x_0)$  then there is a power of  $f_*$  which leaves  $\pi_1(S_1, x_1)$ ,  $\pi_1(S_2, x_2)$ , and  $\pi_1(\tilde{S}, \tilde{x})$  invariant. As a consequence, the corresponding power of  $f$  lifts to  $S_1$ ,  $S_2$ , and  $\tilde{S}$ . Since each lift acts by leaving the fibre of  $x_0$  invariant, up to possibly passing to a different power, we can assume that the lifts fix pointwise the fibre of  $x_0$ . Note moreover that for this to happen it suffices that the fibre of  $x_0$  in the covering  $\tilde{S} \rightarrow X$  is pointwise fixed.  $\square$

*Remark 2.* The argument of the above lemma shows that one can choose a power of  $f$  which lifts, as in the statement of the lemma, to any covering of  $X$  corresponding to a subgroup  $K$  such that  $\pi_1(\tilde{S}, \tilde{x}) \subset K \subset \pi_1(X, x_0)$ . Recall that each such  $K$  is normal in  $\pi_1(X, x_0)$ , since  $G \cong \pi_1(X, x_0)/\pi_1(\tilde{S}, \tilde{x})$  is abelian.

Let  $f$  be a diffeomorphism of  $X$  commuting with  $\tau$  and fixing  $x_0$  and  $y_0$ , and let  $\varphi$  be a power of  $f$  satisfying the conclusions of Lemma 6. Denote by  $\tilde{\varphi}$  the lift of  $\varphi$  to  $\tilde{S}$  and by  $\varphi_1$  and  $\varphi_2$  its projections to  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  respectively. Note that in principle the lift  $\tilde{\varphi}$  of  $\varphi$  is not unique:

two possible lifts differ by composition with a deck transformation. In this case, however, since we require that  $\tilde{\varphi}$  fixes pointwise the fibre of  $x_0$  while the group  $G$  of deck transformations acts freely on it, we can conclude that our choice of  $\tilde{\varphi}$  is unique.

**Proposition 7.** *Let  $f$  be a diffeomorphism of  $X$  commuting with  $\tau$  and fixing  $x_0$  and  $y_0$ , and let  $\varphi$  be a power of  $f$  satisfying the conclusions of Lemma 6. Denote by  $\varphi_1$  and  $\varphi_2$  the lifts of  $\varphi$  to  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  respectively, as described above. The maps  $\varphi_1$  and  $\varphi_2$  are conjugate.*

*Proof:* By construction, the involution  $\tau$  of  $X$  lifts to a map  $g$  between  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  conjugating a lift of  $\varphi$  on  $S_1$  to a lift of  $\varphi$  on  $S_2$ . Since two different lifts differ by composition with a deck transformation, reasoning as in the remark above we see that  $g$  conjugates  $\varphi_1$  to  $\varphi_2$  since both  $\varphi_1$  and  $\varphi_2$  are the only lifts of  $\varphi$  that fix every point in the fibre of  $x_0$ .  $\square$

### 3. Proofs of Theorem 1 and Corollary 2, and some remarks on commensurability

In this section we use the construction detailed in Section 2 to prove our main result. We will then discuss some consequences for 3-dimensional manifolds.

**3.1. Proof of Theorem 1.** By Proposition 7, it is sufficient to show that a pseudo-Anosov  $f: X \rightarrow X$  that fixes  $x_0$  and  $y_0$ , and commutes with  $\tau$ , does exist. According to Lemma 5, any such  $f$  is the lift of a diffeomorphism  $\tilde{f}$  of the torus that fixes two points  $\tilde{x}_0$  and  $\tilde{y}_0$ . Let  $A$  be an Anosov diffeomorphism of the torus. Since  $A$  has infinitely many periodic orbits (see [Si] for instance), we can choose a power  $\bar{f}$  of  $A$  which fixes two points on the torus. Let  $f$  denote the lift of  $\bar{f}$  to  $X$ . We need to show that  $f$  is pseudo-Anosov, that is we need to exclude the possibilities that  $f$  is finite order or reducible. The following argument is standard (see [FLP, exposé 13]). Clearly  $f$  cannot be periodic since its quotient  $\bar{f}$  has infinite order. Since, by assumption,  $\bar{f}$  is an Anosov map, it admits a pair of invariant foliations  $(\mathcal{F}^+, \mathcal{F}^-)$ . These lift to invariant foliations  $(\tilde{\mathcal{F}}^+, \tilde{\mathcal{F}}^-)$  for  $f$ . Note also that  $x_0$  and  $y_0$ , which are lifts of the two fixed points of  $\bar{f}$ , are singular points for the foliations  $(\tilde{\mathcal{F}}^+, \tilde{\mathcal{F}}^-)$ . If  $f$  were reducible then at least one leaf  $\tilde{\gamma}$  of  $\tilde{\mathcal{F}}^+$  or of  $\tilde{\mathcal{F}}^-$  would be fixed by  $f$  and connect one singularity between  $x_0$  or  $y_0$  either to itself or to the other one. Such a leaf would project to a leaf of either  $\mathcal{F}^+$  or  $\mathcal{F}^-$  satisfying the analogous property. This however cannot happen for an Anosov map.



This shows that any  $f$  which is the lift of an Anosov map is a pseudo-Anosov map. Any nonzero power  $\varphi$  of a pseudo-Anosov map  $f$  is again pseudo-Anosov, and, reasoning as above, so are its lifts  $\varphi_1$ ,  $\varphi_2$ , and  $\tilde{\varphi}$ .

It remains to prove that infinitely many choices of  $\varphi_i$ 's do not share common powers. This follows readily from the fact that there exist infinitely many primitive Anosov maps on the torus.  $\square$

**3.2. Hyperbolic fibred 3-manifolds.** The aim of this part is to prove Corollary 2 and compare the examples constructed here to those given in [RS].

For each choice of conjugate pseudo-Anosov maps  $\varphi_1$  and  $\varphi_2$  and common lift  $\tilde{\varphi}$  as in Theorem 1, we can consider the associated mapping tori  $M_1$ ,  $M_2$ , and  $\tilde{M}$  respectively. The 3-manifolds thus obtained are hyperbolic according to Thurston's hyperbolization theorem for manifolds that fibre over the circle (see [O]). By construction, the mapping tori  $M_1$  of  $\varphi_1$  and  $M_2$  of  $\varphi_2$  are homeomorphic, i.e.  $M_1 = M_2 = M$  since  $\varphi_1$  and  $\varphi_2$  are conjugate. Moreover, again by construction, the mapping torus  $\tilde{M}$  of  $\tilde{\varphi}$  covers  $M$  in two non-equivalent ways.

According to Remarks 1 and 2, for each  $k$  one can find pseudo-Anosov maps  $\tilde{\varphi}$  which cover at least  $k$  pairs of conjugate pseudo-Anosov maps in the fashion described in Theorem 1. This proves the last part of the corollary.

*Remark 3.* It follows from the construction, that the group  $G$  acts on  $\tilde{M}$  by isometries which are, moreover, fibration-preserving. In general, one may expect that the isometry group of  $\tilde{M}$  is larger than  $G$ . Note that if this is the case and if one could find an element  $h \in \text{Isom}(\tilde{M})$  which does not normalise  $G$ , then the image of the fibration of  $\tilde{M}$  by  $h$  is another fibration of  $\tilde{M}$ . This new fibration is not isotopic to the initial one a priori. On the other hand, the conjugate of  $G$  by  $h$  preserves the new fibration and induces a system of coverings equivalent to the original one.

It remains to show that there are infinitely many pairs of hyperbolic manifolds  $(\tilde{M}, M)$  such that the first covers the second in two non-equivalent ways. Note that the fact that Theorem 1 provides infinitely many choices is not sufficient to conclude, since a hyperbolic manifold can admit infinitely many non-equivalent fibrations (see [Th]).

The existence of infinitely manifolds follows from the following observation. Up to isomorphism, there are infinitely many groups  $G$  to which our construction applies. Each of these groups acts by hyperbolic isometries on some closed  $\tilde{M}$ . Since the group of isometries of a closed

hyperbolic 3-manifold is finite, we can conclude that there are infinitely many pairs of manifolds  $(\tilde{M}, M)$  up to hyperbolic isometry and hence, because of Mostow's rigidity theorem [Mo], up to homeomorphism.

Another way to reason is the following. Given  $\varphi_1$ ,  $\varphi_2$ , and  $\tilde{\varphi}$  as above we can consider the mapping tori  $M_1^{(k)}$ ,  $M_2^{(k)}$ , and  $\tilde{M}^{(k)}$  of  $\varphi_1^k$ ,  $\varphi_2^k$ , and  $\tilde{\varphi}^k$  respectively, for  $k \geq 1$ . All the manifolds thus obtained are commensurable, and volume considerations show that the manifolds  $\tilde{M}^{(k)}$  are pairwise non homeomorphic. Indeed, given a pseudo-Anosov  $f$  of  $X$ , for any choice of  $G$  and of  $\varphi_1$ ,  $\varphi_2$ , and  $\tilde{\varphi}$ , all the mapping tori obtained are commensurable to the mapping torus of  $f$ . More precisely all these manifolds are fibred commensurable according to the definition of [CSW], that is they admit common fibred covers such that the coverings maps preserve the fixed fibrations.

This latter observation shows that we can construct infinitely many distinct pairs  $(\tilde{M}, M)$  such that the first covers the second in two non equivalent ways which are all (fibred) commensurable. Unfortunately we do not know whether the manifolds we construct in Corollary 2 belong to infinitely many distinct commensurability classes as well. A different construction is based on the fact that hyperbolic arithmetic manifolds have a large commensurator [RS]. This construction can be made for infinitely many isomorphism classes of quaternion algebras, which shows that it is possible to find infinitely many pairs of manifolds  $(\tilde{M}, M)$  such that the first covers the second in two non-equivalent ways and the manifolds  $\tilde{M}$  are pairwise non commensurable.

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